

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 AID-05 /076 W

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R 071349Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 104

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 8055

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PINT, ET

SUBJECT: SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST HOSPITAL CLOSING?

REFERENCE: 75 ADDIS ABABA 4017

1. SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST-RUN ZAUDITU HOSPITAL, STAFFED AND ADMINISTERED BY AMERICAN MISSIONARIES, CLOSED ITS DENTAL, OUT-PATIENT AND APPOINTMENT CLINICS JULY 6. REPORTEDLY, SOME EMERGENCY CASES WILL BE ACCEPTED DURING THE NEXT FEW DAYS, HOWEVER, "UNTIL REMAINING INPATIENTS ARE DISCHARGED."

2. REASON FOR GRADUAL CLOSURE IS CONTINUED LABOR PROBLEM WITH WOULD-BE UNION ORGANIZERS WHO INSIST, INTER ALIA, ON ROLE IN ADMINISTERING HOSPITAL. AS DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL, LABOR UNREST HAS BEEN AN INTERMITTENT PROBLEM AT ZAUDITU. IMMEDIATE CAUSE FOR CLOSURE IS LAWSUIT BY HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES AGAINST ADMINISTRATION TO FORCE HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATORS TO RECOGNIZE AND NEGOTIATE WITH LABOR UNION. CASE HAS NOT RPT NOT YET BEEN DECIDED, BUT MISSIONARIES HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT DECISION WILL GO AGAINST THEM. SINCE THEIR RELIGIOUS PRECEPTS PROHIBIT NEGOTIATING WITH LABOR UNIONS, ADMINISTRATORS FEEL THAT THEIR ONLY ALTERNATIVE IS TO CLOSE THE HOSPITAL.

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3. COMMENT: DISCUSSION WITH ZAUDITU STAFF MEMBERS INDICATES

THAT THREAT OF CLOSING HOSPITAL IS INTENDED HOPEFULLY TO  
COMPEL EMPLOYEES TO RECONSIDER EFFORTS TO ORGANIZE LABOR  
UNION OR, FAILING THAT, TO CONVINCE EPMG TO COME DOWN ON  
ADVENTISTS' SIDE AGAINST UNION ORGANIZERS AS HAPPENED PRE-  
VIOUSLY. IN SPITE OF STAFF MEMBERS' STATEMENTS, WE WILL NOT  
CONSIDER HOSPITAL CLOSING AS DEFINITIVE UNTIL AMERICAN STAFF  
MEMBERS INDICATE PLANS TO RETURN TO US. AS ZAUDITU IS THE  
ONLY HOSPITAL IN ADDIS APPROACHING WESTERN STANDARDS, ITS  
POSSIBLE DEFINITIVE CLOSURE WOULD REPRESENT A  
SEVERE DEGRADATION OF MEDICAL CARE IN THIS CITY. AT PRE-  
SENT, ONLY ZAUDITU PHYSICIANS ARE AUTHORIZED TO PERFORM  
IV MEDICAL EXAMS. WE ARE REQUESTING ASSISTANCE OF ETHIOPIAN  
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION IN SELECTION OF NEW PANEL OF PHYSICIANS,  
HOWEVER, FINAL SELECTION MAY TAKE SOME TIME. WE HAVE  
HEARD (BUT YET TO CONFIRM) THAT DIRG DOES NOT WISH HOSPITAL  
TO CLOSE AND MAY YET ACT TO BLOCK LABOR ORGANIZERS, ALTHOUGH  
THIS WOULD BE UNDERSTANDABLY DIFFICULT FOR THIS SOCIALIST  
GOVERNMENT.

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HOSPITALS, CLOSING OF OFFICES, MISSIONARIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 JUL 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** coburnhl  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976ADDIS08055  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**From:** ADDIS ABABA  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 ADDIS ABABA 4017  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** coburnhl  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 28 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <28 JUN 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST HOSPITAL CLOSING?  
**TAGS:** PINT, ET  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006